

**REMARKS**

The statements by the Examiner that claims 5, 9-11 and 19-21 contain allowable subject matter are gratefully acknowledged.

Claims 1, 9-11, 14, 16, 18, 20 and 22-23 have been amended, claims 2, 4, 5, 19 and 24 have been canceled and new claim 25 has been added. Claims 1, 3, 6-18, 20-23 and 25 are pending in the present application. Applicant reserves the right to pursue the original claims and other claims in this application and in other applications.

The Specification has been amended to correct minor typographical errors and to make several changes requested by the Examiner. No new matter has been introduced by the amendments to the Specification.

The drawings stand objected to because the Office Action states that the drawings contain handwritten notations that are difficult to read. In addition, the Office Action requested that FIG.4 be amended to replace "M(loc2)" with --m(loc2)--. Pursuant to the Examiner's request, corrected FIGS. 1-5 are attached hereto. In corrected FIGS. 1-5 handwritten notations have been replaced by typeface notations. In corrected FIG. 4 "M(loc2)" has been changed to --m(loc2)--. No new matter has been introduced. Applicant respectfully requests that the attached drawings be accepted and that the objection be withdrawn.

The Specification stands objected to based on various informalities. The Specification has been amended in a manner suggested by the Examiner. No new matter has been introduced. Applicant respectfully requests that the objection to the Specification be withdrawn.

Claims 9, 10 and 11 stand objected to for various informalities. Specifically, according to the Office Action, in claim 9, "widts" should be --widths--; in claims 10

and 11, the "x" for the multiplication operation should be replaced by something that is less similar to the variable "x"; and in the equation of claims 10 and 11, "mas(g)" should be replaced with --max(g)--. Claims 9-11 have been amended in the manner suggested by the Examiner. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the objection be withdrawn.

Claims 18 and 22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. Specifically, the Office Action states that the equations would not be enabled for non-integer values of n and recommends that the claims be clarified. Pursuant to the Examiner's request, claims 18 and 22 have been amended to include the phrase --where n is an integer--. As such, the concerns raised in the Office Action have been addressed and the rejection should be withdrawn.

Claims 9, 10, 11 and 16-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. According to the Office Action, there is a lack of antecedent basis for "g" in claims 9 and 11, "the mapping curve" in claims 10 and 11 and "the image histogram" in claim 16. Further, according to the Office Action, claim 11 does not recite the relationship of the "mapping curve" to the "mapping function" of claim 1. Pursuant to the Examiner's recommendation, claim 9 has been amended to recite --where g is a gray level-- and --mapping curve--; claim 11 has been amended to include the relationship between the mapping curve and the mapping function and to recite --where g is an original gray level--; and claim 16 has been amended to recite --the original image histogram--. All of the concerns raised in the Office Action have been addressed by these amendments. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection be withdrawn and the claims allowed.

Claims 1, 6, 7, 12, 13 23 and 24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Zwirn (U.S. Patent No. 4,445,138). Claims 1-4, 6-8, 12-17 and 22-24

24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Schwenker (U.S. Patent No. 6,215,900 B1). Claim 3 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Zwirn. Claim 18 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schwenker. Claims 5 and 19-21 stand objected to as being dependent upon rejected base claims, but are otherwise allowable. Claims 9-11 stand objected to as being dependent upon rejected base claim, but are otherwise allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. The rejections and objections are respectfully traversed.

Pursuant to the Examiner's recommendation, claim 1 has been amended such that original claim 5 is rewritten as an independent claim including the limitations of its base claim and intervening claims; claims 9 and 11 are rewritten as an independent claims including the limitations of their respective base claims; and claim 14 has been amended such that original claim 19 is rewritten as an independent claim including the limitations of its base claim. The Office Action has indicated that these claims are allowable. Claims 3 and 6-13 depend from claim 1 and are allowable along with claim 1 for at least the reasons set forth in the Office Action and on their own merits. Claims 15-18 and 20-22 depend from claim 14 and are allowable along with claim 14 for at least the reasons set forth in the Office Action and on their own merits. Claim 23 was amended to include subject matter deemed allowable in the Office Action. Claims 2, 4, 5, 19 and 24 have been canceled. It is also believed that the rejection of claims 9-11 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, has been overcome.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1, 3, 6-18 and 20-23 are allowable. The rejections and objections should be withdrawn and claims 1, 3, 6-18 and 20-23 allowed.

Claim 20 has been amended solely to correct a dependency necessitated by the canceling of claim 19.

New claim 25 has been added and contains allowable subject matter.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

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Respectfully submitted,

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